

Serial No. 09/821,526

RD-28,219

Remarks

In response to the Advisory Action mailed July 13, 2004, Applicant amended claims 1, 12, 17 and 20 to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection under the combination of Tom in view of Golibersuch. In particular, Applicant added the limitation of "statistically emulating a number of possible linguistic evidential values for each of said attributes, wherein said evidential values comprise unknown information" to claims 1, 12, 17 and 20 to distinguish over the combination of Tom in view of Golibersuch. In addition, Applicant added the limitation of "processing said known and said unknown information at said processing nodes to generate the outputs" to claims 1, 12, 17 and 20 to further emphasize the patentability of these claims with respect to the combination of Tom and Golibersuch.

Applicant submits that the combination of Tom in view of Golibersuch fails to disclose or suggest statistically emulating a number of possible linguistic evidential values for each of the attributes that comprise unknown information. In addition, Applicant submits that the combination of Tom in view of Golibersuch fails to disclose or suggest processing known and unknown information at its processing nodes.

Golibersuch, which is the reference in the combination that the Examiner relies on for its disclosure of using unknown information, teaches that potential problems such as missing attributes or values are identified before proceeding to production. In particular, Golibersuch identifies missing attributes or values in a model design phase and not in a production phase. The model in the production phase is not set up to identify missing attributes or values. The only way to handle missing data in Golibersuch's production phase is by having an underwriter manually enter all of the required information. On the other hand, the present invention is able to automatically take into account unknown information without having to rely on manual interaction with the underwriter. In particular,

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the present invention is designed to deal with the possibility that some data elements may not arrive electronically. As explained on page 23, lines 4-8, of the present patent application:

[it] will be appreciated that this feature is not simply adding the linguistic label "Unknown" but it involves statistically emulating the actions that an expert would take if certain facts were unknown. That is, it allows the system to reach a statistically reliable decision even in the absence of some input data, as an expert would in a less than ideal real world.

In other words, the production system of the present invention is specifically designed to accept missing values. As a stark contrast, the approached described in Golibersuch is designed to assure that there is no missing values in its usage.

In light of this distinction, Applicant submits that the combination of Tom in view of Golibersuch fails to disclose or suggest the limitations of statistically emulating a number of possible linguistic evidential values for each of the attributes that comprise unknown information and processing known and unknown information, which are recited in amended claims 1, 12, 17 and 20. Claims 2-11, 13-16 and 18-19 depend directly or indirectly from now presumably allowable claims 1, 12 and 17, respectively, and are believed allowable by dependency. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and remove the §103(a) rejection of claims 1-20 under the combination of Tom in view of Golibersuch.

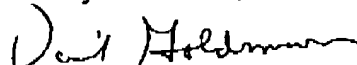
In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider this application and allow claims 1-20.

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If the Examiner has any questions regarding the present patent application, the Examiner can call Applicant's attorney, David Goldman, at telephone number (518)-387-5927 or (518)-387-5903.

Respectfully submitted,



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Schenectady, New York
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